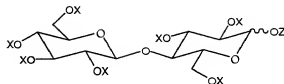


We Claim:-

- 1 As a new compound, an acylated cellobiose satisfying the general formula:



in which X represents an acyl group $-R-CO-$ or H, Z represents an acyl group $R'-CO-$ or H and not more than a minority of R + R' residues represent H and

in the remaining R + R' residues, R represents a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 5 to 31 carbon atoms and

R' represents a residue which is different from R and which is:-

- (i) a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain hydrocarbon residue containing from 1 to 31 carbon atoms optionally substituted or
- (ii) an aromatic hydrocarbon residue, optionally substituted or
- (iii) a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon, optionally substituted.

- 2 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein X represents an R-CO- group in at least 6 locations.

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- 3 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 or 2
 wherein the R residue is linear.
- 4 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the
5 R residue comprises from 7 to 11 carbons.
- 5 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 4 wherein the
 R residue comprises 8 or 9 carbons.
- 10 6 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 2 wherein the
 R residue is n-octyl or n-nonyl.
- 7 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein each R residue is the same.
- 15 8 An acylated cellobiose according to any one of claims
 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein each X represents an R-CO-
 group.
- 20 9 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 8 wherein
 each R residue is the same.
- 10 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein X
 represents R-CO- in at least 6 locations and each R
25 residue represents a linear group comprising from 7 to
 11 carbons.

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11 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 1 wherein the
R' residue is a residue selected from the group
consisting of alkyl residues containing from 1 to 6 or
from 11 to 24 carbon atoms, optionally substituted,
5 aromatic residues and cycloaliphatic residues.

12 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
the R' alkyl residue is a linear alkyl residue.

10 13 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
the R' aromatic residue comprises a phenyl, naphthyl or
biphenyl residue.

14 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein
15 the R' cycloaliphatic residue comprises a cyclohexyl
residue.

15 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 11 wherein X
represents R-CO- in at least 6 locations and each R
20 residue represents a linear group comprising from 7 to
11 carbons.

16 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 15 wherein
the R residue is n-nonoyl.

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17 An acylated cellobiose according to claim 15 wherein
the R' residue is selected from the group consisting of